

Remarks

Applicant acknowledges that the Patent Office has received the priority documents filed under 35 USC 119(a-d).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 8 and 11-14. Claim 8 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection thereto.

The rejection of claims 1-9 and 13 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the wording which was considered indefinite by the Examiner and to correct the insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations "said scratching means" and "said operation means". Lines 13-16 have been amended to read - - second operation means differing from said first operation means, wherein a rotational speed signal from said first operation means and a rotational speed signal from one of the first and second operation means which is achieved at the same detected rotational speed, differ from each other- -. The term "rotational speed of" has been replaced with the term "rotational speed signal from". This should overcome the lack of clarity in the paragraph.

In addition, claims 11-13 have been amended so that the expression "a signal" now reads - - the rotational signal- -. Claim 13 has further been amended to remove the unclear expression "said ratio standing between" and to clarify the ratio as expressed in claim 13 to make it more definite.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten to amend it to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant believes that claim 1 has been appropriately amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and accordingly claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

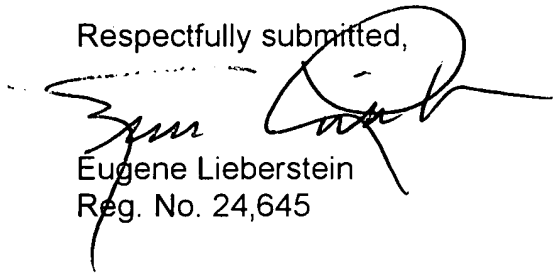
Applicant has amended claims 11-13 to include the limitations of claim 10 and to otherwise amend claims 11-13 to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, applicant now believes that claims 11-13 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 10 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 10 under 35 USC 102(e) moot.

Claims 1-9 and 11-15 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Lieberstein
Reg. No. 24,645

Customer # 01109
ANDERSON, KILL & OLICK
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1182
(212) 278-1000

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 20, 2007.



L. Felicetti

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